

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities from a single communications service, the method comprising:

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates using the identity to which the list corresponds;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several identities of the user, of a particular source identity from which to initiate an electronic communication;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source identity selected by the user, of another identity to whom to send the electronic communication; and

sending the electronic communication to the other identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the other identity as being sent from the particular source identity selected by the user.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple identities of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential identities to which a link from the multiple identities may be created, wherein the list of potential identities is created based on relationships between the potential identities and the multiple identities known to exist within the remote server.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the other identity and addressed to the particular source identity.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising:
logging on to the single communications service using a first identity of the user that differs from the particular source identity; and
in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first identity of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source identity.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying the several identities of the user in the single graphical user interface.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists of other identities associated with each of the several identities in the single graphical user interface.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of a new identity to the list for one of the several identities of the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other of the several identities of the user.

23. (Currently amended) A graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable multiple identities of a user from a single electronic communication service, and to make perceivable one or more buddy instant messaging participant lists that each have one or more constituent buddies instant messaging participants and that each are associated with one of the multiple identities of the user; and

a visual indicator that is configured to display the current logon status of the buddies instant messaging participants from the buddy instant messaging participant lists of the multiple identities of the user; and

wherein at least one buddy instant messaging participant from one of the buddy instant messaging participant lists associated with a first identity of the multiple identities of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein at least one buddy instant messaging participant from one of the buddy instant messaging participant lists associated with a second identity of the multiple identities of the user also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user.

24. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user.

25. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple identities of the user.

26. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple identities of the user.

27. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple identities of the user.

28. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple identities of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other identities of the user.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to:

enable the user to select a particular list for a particular one of the several identities of the user; and

in response to a selection by the user of the particular list for the particular identity, display the particular list for the particular identity selected by the user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises concurrently displaying lists for each of at least two identities of the user.

31. (Currently amended) A method for linking multiple identities of a user from a single communications service, the method comprising:

for a user of a single communications service having multiple identities for use in communicating with other users within the single communications service, authenticating a first identity of the user, the first identity of the user having a first-buddy participant list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with

the other users associated with the identities of the first buddy participant list using the first identity of the user;

authenticating a second identity of the user, the second identity of the user having a second buddy participant list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the second buddy participant list using the second identity of the user;

creating an association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, wherein the association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user in response to authentication of both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first buddy participant list corresponding to the first identity of the user and the second buddy participant list corresponding to the second identity of the user such that the user interacts with the first buddy participant list to communicate with other users using the first identity of the user and the user interacts with the second buddy participant list to communicate with other users using the second identity of the user.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:

authenticating the first identity includes using a first password to authenticate the first identity; and

authenticating the second identity includes using a second password to authenticate the second identity.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:
authenticating the first identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first identity; and
authenticating the second identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second identity.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first identity is a part of a first domain and the second identity is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain.

41. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising setting preferences for the first identity, wherein setting the preferences for the first identity also sets the preferences for the second identity.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising:
setting first preferences for the first identity; and
setting second preferences for the second identity.

43. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first buddy participant list and the second buddy participant list include one or more common buddies identities listed on both the first buddy participant list and the second buddy participant list.

44. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple identities within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one to be reflected based on a login of another of the multiple identities.

45. (New) A method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts, the method comprising:

displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account, a single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes:

a first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging participant list, and

a second instant messaging participant list that is separate from the first instant messaging participant list, that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, and that includes one or more instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging participant list;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the first instant messaging contact;

based on the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, sending the first instant message composed by the user to the first instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the second instant messaging contact; and

based on the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the second instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising collapsing the first instant messaging participant list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the one or more instant messaging contacts that are included in the first instant messaging participant list are not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging participant list.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

- enabling the user to add a new instant messaging contact the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;
- enabling the user to add the same new contact to the second instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user;
- enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;
- based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send a new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the new instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;
- enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user; and
- based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send another new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the other new instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

48. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging participant list and the second instant messaging participant list includes concurrently displaying both the first instant messaging participant list and the second instant messaging participant within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen.

49. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user are maintained by the same instant messaging provider.